



NRC NEWS

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NRC SCHEDULES MEETING TO DISCUSS 2010 PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT FOR CATAWBA NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has scheduled a meeting for Thursday, April 28, to discuss the agency's assessment of safety performance during 2010 at the Catawba nuclear power plant. The plant, operated by Duke Energy, is near York, S.C., about 18 miles south of Charlotte, N.C.

The meeting, in the Rock Hill City Hall, 155 Johnston St. in Rock Hill, S.C., will begin with a presentation at 6:30 p.m., followed by an informal open house ending at 8 p.m.

NRC staff will be available to answer questions on the safety performance of the Catawba plant, as well as the NRC role in ensuring safe plant operation.

"The NRC evaluates nuclear power plants in a systemic and detailed way every year," said NRC Region II Administrator Victor McCree. "The inspections and oversight at Catawba ensure that the plant is operated in a way that protects people and the environment."

A letter sent from the NRC Region II office to plant officials addresses the performance of the plant during 2010 and will serve as the basis for the meeting discussion. It is available on the NRC web site at: www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/cat_2010q4.pdf.

The NRC found that the Catawba plant met all NRC safety objectives during 2010. Based on that performance, the two Catawba units will receive detailed baseline NRC inspections in 2011. In addition, the agency will complete an inspection related to spent fuel storage as well as operator licensing examinations.

The NRC uses color-coded inspection findings and performance indicators to assess plant performance. The colors start with "green," which has very low safety significance, to "white," "yellow" or "red," based on the significance of the issues. Inspection findings and performance indicators are updated on the NRC's web site (www.nrc.gov) each quarter.

Current performance information for Catawba Unit 1 is available on the NRC web site at: www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/CAT1/cat1_chart.html. Current information for Unit 2 is at: www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/CAT2/cat2_chart.html.

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